

EXTRACTS FROM THE INTERROGATION OF AKIRA MUTO

April 16, 1946

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- Q. Didn't you feel that Germany was going to win the war and therefore you were a very ardent advocate of the Tri-Partite Pact?
- A. I did not advocate it.
- Q. Did you disagree with the signatories formulating such a pact?
- A. As an individual I was in favor of it, but as I told you this morning, in my official capacity I had no say in matters of policy which were decided by the Chief of the General Staff and the War Minister.
- Q. And in your official capacity, didn't you frequently advise TOJO that such a pact would be advisable and helpful to Japan in her efforts in settling the China Incident?

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- A. It was my job to gather together various points of view and present them to War Minister TOJO. In the paper that I presented to him, there might have been some statement advocating the binding of the Three Powers Pact, but I have no clear recollection of it.
- Q. You feel, though, that there was such a recommendation?
- A. I know that such feelings were very strong within the military.
- Q. And your feelings, also, in your official capacity?
- A. No, I did not personally advocate it.
- Q. But you did do so in your capacity as Chief of the Military Affairs Bureau?
- A. In my official capacity it was my job to keep in contact with the head of the Naval Affairs Bureau and to finally present the majority opinions to the War Minister.

2.

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答、私ハ其ノ様ナ氣持ガ軍部内ニ非常ニ強カツタコ  
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問、デハ貴方ノ官職ニ於ケル貴方ノ氣持モ？

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